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Interagency Human Trafficking Task Force
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 29, 2012

Convened at 10:00am

Members present: Martha Coakley, Geline W. Williams, Com. Ed Davis, Julie Dahlstrom, Heather Rowe, Josiane Martinez, Angelo McClain, Dave Murphy, Ronald P. Corbett, Ellen Slaney, Lt. Col. Frank Matthews (on behalf of Col. Marian McGovern), Sgt. Pi Heseltine, Katia Santiago-Taylor, Susan Goldfarb, Stephanie Decandia, Casey Atkins, Chris Carroll, Cherie Jimenez, Lisa Goldblatt Grace, Sheridan Haines

Members absent: Chief Tom Pasquarello, Janet Fine, Chief A. Wayne Sampson, Dep. Sup. Kelly Nee, Mary Elizabeth Heffernan, Mark Kmetz, Audrey Porter

Staff Present: Liam Lowney, Kimberly Henry, Noreen Leahy

Introduction from Attorney General Coakley

- This task force is not for prosecution, that is a parallel process that is currently ongoing
- Confident that we will meet the challenges of the work ahead
- This should be a working task force, we should have the conversations needed to come together on this crime of exploitation

Introduction of Task Force Members

Including what goals the members have for the Task Force

Summary of goals presented by members:

- Keep DAs and law enforcement informed, and know what they are supposed to do
- Recognize the importance of focusing on demand and those profiting from exploitation
- Looking at the long-term nature of this work, and recognize how complicated it is
- The needs of survivors, and successful models in other states
- More involvement with employment law, and the development of tools to be used in relation to employment agencies
- Focus on collaborations to make sure we help those who need it
- Develop a service network outside of Boston
- Fill the big need for public service announcements
- Look at the ways this both directly and indirectly impacts populations around Massachusetts
- Develop training programs for probation officers
- Information sharing with our partners across jurisdictions
- Develop a model for how a case flows through the system, and where in the system each member has a role to play
- Development of comprehensive services
- Working from a multidisciplinary perspective, applying programs and tools statewide that have proven successful in single jurisdictions
- Development of successful 'exit services', the need to understand this process better and to lessen the vulnerability of those who could be exploited
- Information sharing network, and looking for ways to tighten existing regulations
- Building and strengthening the investigative capacity of law enforcement across specific to HT cases which will result in more effective prosecutions and hold the exploiter

Survivor Presentation

Survivor spoke of her experience, and the gap in services that currently exist and the need to lessen vulnerability.

Review of Subcommittees

The Subcommittee Summary Page was given to all committee members. The subcommittees are as follows:

- Data Collection and Sharing,
- Public Awareness,
- Victim Needs and Services,
- Education, and
- Demand.

Each will be responsible for specific tenets from the recently passed legislation.

Next Steps

Liam Lowney and Kimberly Henry are currently in the process of reaching out to committee members to establish subcommittee chairs, who will then work to build each subcommittee.

Topics Not Reasonable Anticipated

Questions/Comments from Audience

- The ABA's next president has made eliminating trafficking her number one priority, possibility for collaboration
- The Department of Health recently developed a public online training for school nurses. Q: Where does prevention fall within the subcommittees?
 - Liam Lowney: Could potentially be discussed in every committee depending on which population you are targeting.
- Q: What has changed with this new law?
 - AG: There has been an increase in some penalties and the inclusion of safe harbor.
 - Susan Goldfarb: Safe harbor basically allows for there to be a diversion from delinquency proceedings to CHINS or CNP for service for those under 18 being exploited for commercial sex.
- US Attorney's Office is open to new partnerships, involvement in the subcommittees, and expanding on the information sharing partnership currently in place with the FBI.

Questions/Comments by Task Force Members

- Julie Dalhstrom: How do we handle the federal/state interaction?
 - AG: The state legislation could not mandate any type of federal involvement, but we absolutely need to include them in this effort.
 - Federal agencies in the audience indicated they were open to sharing information and to collaboration.
- Sgt. Pi Heseltine: Should look at how this shared information gets to the right person so the offender is held accountable.
 - AG: And to start to gather some data to better quantify the problem.

Adjourned

List of Documents and Exhibits Used by Task Force

Meeting Notice/ Agenda

Subcommittee Summary Page

Task Force Contact List

OML Summary Page